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Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Egyptian pound, consisting of 100 piastres.

Government

General

Egypt is located in the N part of Africa. It is bordered on the N by the Mediterranean Sea; on the W side by Libya; on the E side by the Gaza Strip, Israel, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Red Sea; and on the S by Sudan. The Sinai Peninsula, which forms the E part of the country, is bordered on its W by the Gulf of Suez and the Suez Canal and on its E by the Gulf of Aqaba.

A number of Egyptian islands lie within the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea. These include Jazirat Jubal, Jazirat Shakir, Jazair Jiftun, and Jazirat Zabarjad (St. Johns Island).

The Nile River, in the 960 miles of its course through Egypt, does not receive a single tributary. The First Cataract is near Aswan (24°05'N., 32°52'E.), above which has been constructed the High Dam. Most of the country is an arid desert. Only the Nile valley, the Nile delta, and some oases are cultivated. Several mountain ranges intersect the desert between the Nile River and the Red Sea. The climate is arid with hot, dry summers and moderate winters.



Flag of Egypt

Egypt, a former British protectorate, became an independent monarchy in 1922. Following a revolution in 1952, the country became a republic in 1953. Egypt was merged with Syria to form the United Arab Republic from 1958 until 1961. A constitution was approved by referendum in 1971 that defines the country as an Arab Republic with a democratic, socialist system. The President is nominated by the People's Assembly and

confirmed by plebiscite for a 6-year term. The President is the chief of state and appoints a Prime Minister and a Council of Ministers. The People's Assembly (Majlis al Cha'b), which is the principal legislative body, consists of 444 directly-elected members and 10 appointed members. In 1980, the Shura Council, a consultative body with advisory functions, was established. This council consists of 210 members, with one-third appointed and two-thirds elected. The country is divided into 26 governorates (muhafazat).

The legal system is based on English common law, Islamic law, and the Napoleonic code.

The capital is Cairo (Al Qahirah).

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Sinai Liberation Day	April 25
Labor Day	May 1
Revolution Day	July 23
Armed Forces Day	October 6

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Eid Al-Fitr (End of Ramadan), Eid Al-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), Ashoora, Sham El Nessim (Spring Holiday), Courban Bairam (Pilgrimage Feast), and the Prophet's Birthday.

Industries

Agriculture is the chief industry, with cotton being the most important crop. Other crops include rice, onions, beans, wheat, corn, and barley. Other industries include textiles, chemicals, petroleum products, cement, tourism, and shipping (via the Suez Canal).

Languages

The official language is Arabic. English and French are widely understood by the educated classes.

Mined Areas

Due to dangerous mines, navigation is prohibited within an area on the W side of the Red Sea bounded by the following:

- 28°38.5'N, 32°51'E.
- 28°38.5'N, 32°53'E.
- 28°35.0'N, 32°56'E.
- 28°33.5'N, 32°55'E.

Regulations

Navigation

Navigation may be prohibited in certain areas within 20 miles of the Egyptian coast.

Vessels bound for Egyptian ports or navigating off the Egyptian coast are advised to obtain the latest information from their agents.

All vessels should send an ETA at least 24 hours in advance to the port authorities indicating their last port of call, position, course, and speed. Vessels navigating within 24 miles of the Egyptian coast should contact the port authorities for entry instructions.

Vessels bound for Egyptian ports in the Red Sea should request permission to enter Egyptian waters from the port authorities, through their agents, at least 48 hours before crossing the parallel of 23°N.

Vessels in the Gulf of Suez (Khaliq as Suways) should maintain a listening watch on VHF channel 16.

Routes

Traffic Separation Scheme

An extensive IMO-adopted Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) exists within the Gulf of Suez.

The following TSS-associated rules for vessels navigating in the Gulf of Suez have been approved by the IMO:

1.1 Ships should take into account that crossing traffic may be encountered in the traffic junction eastward of Ain Sukhna and in the precautionary area off Ras Shukheir, and should be in a high state of readiness to maneuver in these areas.

1.2 Exceptional care is needed, when overtaking another ship within a lane, not to enter the separation zone or force the overtaken ship to do so.

1.3 Ships navigating in the Gulf of Suez are requested to keep a continuous listening watch on the Suez Gulf Traffic Information Broadcasts and report any aids to navigation which are malfunctioning or are out of position and that are not already included in the broadcasts.

2.1 All oceangoing ships should have their radar in effective use by day and at night throughout the passage between Shaker Island and Suez Port as an aid to achieving maximum feasible lane conformity and avoid-ing risk of collision. Particular care is required for strict adherence to the confines of relevant traffic lanes.

2.2 Ships proceeding S from Suez should be alert for tankers heading for the SUMED Oil Terminal, situated off Ain Sukhna.

2.3 Northbound tankers heading for the SUMED Oil Terminal should report their intention of using the traffic junction off Ain Sukhna on the appropriate frequencies.

2.4 All ships, northbound and southbound, when navigating through the precautionary area off Ras Shukheir or in the vicinity of the July Oil Field should avoid overtaking within the traffic lanes in these areas.

2.5 All ships, including service and supply craft serving the July, Ramadan, and Morgan Oil Fields, proceeding in and out of the Ras Shukheir Oil Terminal should only cross the southbound and northbound traffic flow through the precautionary area. Within this precautionary area, local rules relating to crossing traffic apply.

2.6 Tankers leaving the Ras Shukheir Oil Terminal and intending to join the northbound traffic lane should only do so when no through southbound traffic is in the vicinity

and should always report their movements to other ships beforehand on VHF.

2.7 Ships anchored in the designated waiting area for Ras Shukheir should ensure that they are never less than 0.25 mile from the edge of the southbound traffic lane and should pay special regard to their correct light signals for ships at anchor. They should also show their deck lights.

Suez Canal

The Suez Canal, a sea-level waterway, connects Port Said (Bur Said) on the Mediterranean Sea with Suez (As Suways) on the Red Sea. It has a total length of 193.5km (including approaches) and may generally be used by ocean-going vessels with drafts of up to 16.2m. The canal was originally opened for traffic on November 17, 1869 and nationalized in 1956. It was closed in June 1967 due to military conflict and reopened in June 1975. Regulations, restrictions, and other operational details concerning transit of the Suez Canal are fully described in Pub. 172, Sailing Directions (Enroute) Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is BRAVO (-2). Daylight Savings Time (CHARLIE (-3)) is maintained from the end of April through the end of September; the exact changeover dates should be obtained from local authorities.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 5 Latin America Street, Garden City, Cairo.

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U. S. Embassy Egypt Home Page

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